

THE MAGAZINE OF

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

JUNE 1963

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SPASTICS NEWS



THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

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Front Cover

Back to school—the Hawsworth children gather at King's Cross with their housemothers.

Back Cover

Grace Noble, a 19-year-old spastic girl from Kidderminster, Worcestershire, has overcome her disability to such good effect that she has reached National Standard as a fencer.

She uses her electric foil left-handed and here plugs in her weapon before a bout.

Grace has been fencing for two years and is a member of the Birmingham Fencing Club.

(Photograph: Courtesy P. A. Reuter)

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Editor: Eve Renshaw

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Editor's Note

More than half of the articles, features and art work in this issue are by spastic people themselves, or directly about the independent activities of spastics—usually both.



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This fine drawing of Chanctonbury Ring was sent to us by Mr. George W. M. Crosskey, who is a spastic artist

THE DEVIL'S APPRENTICE

by Denis McCullough

BETSY the Boiler took a lot of feeding this winter. She really gulped down her 2-in. N.C.B. coke, which made an excellent form of physiotherapy for any spastic like me. The rhythmical movement of my arms as I feed her early morning and last thing at night, does a lot to break up what are medically known as spasms.

Beginning in the forward shoulder muscle, these spasms convulse the whole of my arms and right down to my hands. Naturally, the shovel-full of coke I'm carrying goes on the floor, and so I've got to begin over again. Betsy doesn't mind waiting, in fact she's quite affectionate, and shows it by leaving me a half-bin of powdery ash to clear away each morning.

She's feeling her 30 years now, poor dear. So we've given her a pump to take the hot water aloft, from the tank, through the twisting pipes, to the radiators which keep warm the cups of tea with saucers on top, while intellectuals catch up with the daily comic strips. But when the driving belt between pump and motor snapped, Betsy continued gleefully to build up a good head of heat in one corner of the building. In a panic I rang the engineer, but did not follow his advice: "Close all your draught doors, dampen down—and run like hell."

Monday mornings I light her, very early, but the work really begins on Sunday, with a fervent prayer for a north-west wind. It helps Betsy to get away to a flying start, licking

her flaming way through a tea-chest full of waste paper and two scuttles of sticks, topped by an armful of shredded newspapers—that's where all the fancy articles end up, on my fire. Once there was a north-west gale, and *wooooooosh*—the whole lot nearly went up the chimney before I could get the first lot of coke on.

Yes, I start straight off with coke; there's not enough bunker room for coal as well, which adds to my difficulties. Fog affects her too—no wind and Betsy labours heavily, while upstairs the boss raves.

Strangely enough, spring is the most difficult time to work Betsy. The warmer days, when you don't require so much heat, are flanked by chilly mornings and evenings, and even though I keep Betsy as quiet as possible, the lads are sometimes crawling up the wall with the heat, accusing me of all kinds of evil intentions. Still, as they peel off layer after layer it's interesting to know whose wives go in for whiter than white shirts, and I've even seen a jazzy line in string vests.

Autumn, too, has its problems for me personally. After a three-month lay-off the spasms really have me in their grip, and I handle a shovel like a schoolgirl, spraying coke all over the fire area instead of into neat piles skilfully directed by the merest flick of the wrist. Once I nearly followed the coke into the fire. . . .

There's talk of a conversion job coming off. To give instant warmth, on those increasingly cold wet days of summer. Still, I hate to think of old Betsy on some scrap heap in a dealer's yard. She would pine, while I would miss the help and efficiency of the Order Office and the cheery wise-cracks of the delivery lads, which all add up to an ideal form of physiotherapy for the Devil's Apprentice.



A LECTURE ON THE LAWNS
(Dental Lecture given by Mr. Hoar, Dental Surgeon)

Working Holiday for Houseparents

Conference at Craig-y-Parc

AN interesting five-day Houseparents' Course took place during the Easter holiday at Craig-y-Parc School, Pentyrch, Cardiff.

Houseparents from the Thomas Delarue, Irton Hall, Ingfield Manor Schools, joined with Hawksworth Hall and Craig-y-Parc School houseparents, to form a group of 35 houseparents of varied interests and skills, and eager to absorb and discuss the expertise given.

The Craig-y-Parc School is housed in a hospitable Welsh mansion which makes a suitable foil for a course of this type, where group discussion and exchange of experiences and views form an integral part of the programme.

The premises allowed space for the choice of three lecture rooms as needed, so that there was a change of environment to reflect the varying themes of the very fine lectures which were presented.

This was an arrangement which proved to be of value, for at the end of the course it was noted that although the students

had listened intently to the expertise of the lecturers and provided good questions throughout, they were fresh and lively to take the brief examination which concluded the course.

An attractive display of leisure-time apparatus and pamphlets on materials and laundrywork was arranged to supplement the practical lectures; films also helped to press home the salient points made throughout the course.

It was possible in the evenings to arrange some social life for the group in the way of evening trips to Cardiff, a coach tour and dinner to follow in lovely Wye Valley area, and a social evening which afforded the Craig-y-Parc members an opportunity to be hostesses for this occasion.

The programme was arranged to include all aspects of the cerebral palsied child in residence, ranging from a very fine lecture given by Mr. A. J. Southwell, M.A., Inspector of Schools for the Home Office (Children's Department) on the essential principles of healthy relationships in residential

life, to the practical aspects of appreciating the nature of the handicap, the elements of normal child development, handling and management, children's ailments, and allied subjects, leisure-time activities, first aid, fire precautions and many other considerations, concluding with preparing the child for life after school and possible employment.

Although transforming a school into a college for the brief period of the course took some effort and organisation, the arrangement was not without benefit since the Craig-y-Parc houseparents, being already at ease in their own environment, were able quickly to make the rest of the group feel at home.

Typical April showers prevailed for most of the time, but the spring-time sun was warm enough to allow one lecture at least to be taken on the lawn, and felt full of promise after the rigours of the winter past.

The course was organised and directed by Mrs. C. M. Kearslake, the Headmistress of the Craig-y-Parc School (at the request of The Spastics Society) and was opened by Mrs. C. A. Clifton, the Projects Secretary for The Spastics Society, who was able to stay for almost the whole period which proved to be a very fine asset to the success of the course. In concluding the course, Mrs. Clifton complimented the group on their excellent application to the very full programme presented, and assured the group of the appreciation of The Spastics Society for the work done by houseparents at their schools.

The discussion groups formed a valuable contribution increasing in animation as the houseparents became accustomed to "talking" instead of "doing". The discussions outside the lecture rooms were even more animated and uninhibited!

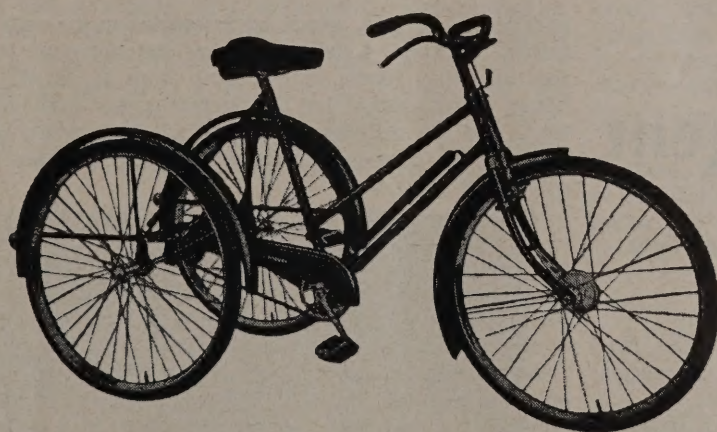
Mrs. Kearslake, the Course Director, made a skilful summing-up after each talk and in her comments one was aware of the extent of her wisdom and experience in residential work.

She also made an outstandingly successful hostess, whose personal kindness and thought for each member of the course and for the staff looking after the participants, provided a harmonious background to the discussions. The Craig-y-Parc hospitality was at its usual high standard and helped everyone to feel at home from the moment of arrival.

All the members of the course were enthusiastic about returning at a later date to discuss the application of the knowledge they had acquired—perhaps it was the beauty of the Welsh hills that lured them!



Mr. A. J. Southwell with a group of Irton Hall Houseparents



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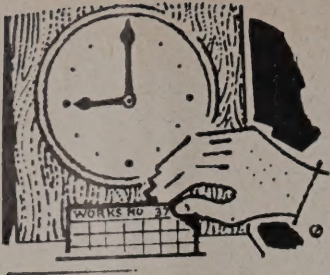
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SPASTICS AT WORK

The following people have commenced employment or changed their work:

Eric Davis, from **Birmingham**, is employed in the offices of the local Remploy—he uses an electric typewriter.

Mary Fitton, from **Stockport**, is working for a local manufacturing concern—her duties consist of stamping labels and tickets.

William Forster, from **Almondsbury**, nr. Bristol has changed his job and is now working as a residential domestic helper in the Cheshire Home near Godalming.

Susan Haines, from **London**, having recently completed her training at Dovercourt is now working as a Tickopres operator for a firm in the City.

Christine Hewitt, from **Clifton, Yorks**, is employed on office filing duties for a firm in Stamford Bridge, following her training at the Chester Office Training Centre (Stockport branch).

Victor Mace, from **Thundersley**, following his training at Messrs. Joseph Lucas in Birmingham, is working as a wireman for a radio concern in Basildon.

Maureen Moore, from **Twickenham**, has changed her job and is now doing outwork (packing) for a firm in Richmond.

Hazel Vanier, from **Nuneaton**, who recently completed her training at the Chester Office Training Centre (Stockport branch) is now employed in the printing department of a firm in Stockport.

David Vowles, from **Norwood Green**, nr. Halifax has been helping on a local farm for some time.

Margaret Wilson, from **London**, is working in the offices of the Cambridge University Press, as a messenger.

The following new Jewellery makers have joined the Homeworkers Scheme:—

Delia Hemming and **Pamela Truesdale**.

Brian Matthews is making wooden salad bowls.

Chipchase Workshop

The Millionth!

One day soon someone collecting clothes from a dry cleaner's will also take the millionth wire hanger made by a dozen spastic young men and women working together in the Chipchase workshop in Newcastle.

The manufacturing devices for the give-away hangers now favoured by cleaners have all been designed by the workshop manager, Mr. John A. Hodgson, and made on the spot.

The workshop is attached to the Percy Hedley School for Spastics at Forest Hall, and the workers are successfully undertaking contract work for firms in the city. Often the monthly production of hangers exceeds 20,000.

(Edited from Newcastle Journal, Newcastle-on-Tyne)

Spastics Now Marketing Detergent

Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Society's Latest Project

IPSWICH now has a new detergent—and spastics employed at the Wellington Work Centre a new occupation—the bottling and packing of Ipso, a liquid detergent.

The Wellington Work Centre, 24 Waterloo Road, Ipswich, is run by the Ipswich & East Suffolk Spastics Society, whose activities during the past 10 years have been confined to welfare and social work and running a weekly clinic for speech and physiotherapy.

The building, originally used as a school, has been extensively overhauled, modernised and equipped and the cost has been met entirely from funds raised in the Group area.

Nine spastics are at present employed at the Centre, but it is hoped to double this number in the near future. The detergent, suitable for washing-up and other household cleaning jobs, is supplied by The Shell Chemical Co. in 40-gallon drums, from which the attractive squeeze type plastic bottles are filled by means of a pump; they are then capped and

packed into cartons, which are assembled at the workshop and stapled together. Labels and other stationery are printed by spastics. Ipso retails in the local shops at 2s. 9d. per pint bottle. Initial target for the operation was 2,000 bottles per week, but the response from Ipswich housewives and stores has been so favourable that it is anticipated this total will quickly be exceeded.

The man behind the project is Mr. R. A. Jupp, chairman of the Ipswich & East Suffolk Spastics Society. He was the hon. secretary of the National Spastics Society for several years prior to its recent amalgamation with British Council for the Welfare of Spastics, and is a member of the executive of the present Spastics Society.

At the official launching of Ipso on May 1, when members of the press, radio and television companies were present, Mr. Jupp said "This workshop is the result of a great deal of time, effort and thought by a great many people and we hope that today will be a milestone in the furtherance of work for the handicapped of this country. By finding this new answer to the problem of employment for spastics, Ipswich is giving a lead, which, if successful, may well be followed by many other towns."

A film of the entire bottling and packing operation of the detergent was shown by I.T.V. on their Anglia Television Service on May 2, and the project was also the subject of a newscast in the B.B.C.'s Home Service (Anglia & Midlands) and on B.B.C. Anglia Television on the same day. Favourable reports have also appeared in national and local newspapers.

Nina Heycock.

THE most enjoyable event of our scouting year is the annual week-end camp. We are very lucky indeed to have a camp site near our school, owned by Miss Garwood the Cub-Mistress, who lends it to her cubs and the scouts. The only permanent building on the site is a brick pavilion with W.C. Helpers come from the Rover Scouts, usually the same ones every year, so we are old friends.

At ten o'clock on Saturday morning, the helpers come pushing a car trailer, and take our stores, cutlery and kit to the pavilion. We have a change of clothing, pyjamas, towel, toilet things, a pillow and three blankets each. Then they come back for us. The people on tricycles go first, and the wheel-chairs follow. When we get there we open the camp by breaking the flag, which has to come down at sunset, and is hoisted again the next morning.

Then comes spud-bashing. The Rovers hold the vegetables we choose in one hand, and help us to peel them. When the billy-can is full, we stop, and play games with the people who are not in the cooking team. If the weather is fine, we play rounders or cricket: if not, it's skittles in the pavilion. Dinner is cooked over an open fire, and we do not use a stove at all.



scared that he burst out crying, and rushed away downhill on his tricycle, and someone had to run after him.

Meanwhile, the huge camp fire is being prepared. A big tent is put up too. This is an old ridge tent with wartime



OUR WEEK-END CAMP



A bit of smoke makes a meal taste a lot better. Dinner is at one p.m., and is usually stew, followed by gooseberries or cherries and custard. While the helpers wash-up, Beaver, our scouter, and Ron, his assistant, tell us a yarn or two.

Next on the agenda is a trail, laid by a scout or a cub, which we have to follow. To make it more exciting, a Rover dressed up as a native or a frightening animal will appear suddenly. One cub who had come for the first time was so

camouflage on the sides, lent to us every year by another scout troop. About five o'clock, our palliasses are filled with fresh straw from the stable nearby. Everyone tries to fill one, and, in the process of doing so, usually gets buried beneath it. We are very glad when the call "Grub up!" is made, and there's a rush to get there first.

After tea and bed-making, the flag is lowered, and the moment we have all been waiting for has at last arrived. It is time for the camp fire, with songs, stunts, jokes, and finally cocoa and biscuits. Then there's a rush to get washed and into pyjamas. The younger cubs sleep in the pavilion, the older ones and the scouts in tents. After the long day in the open air, palliasses feel like heaven.

The next morning we get up about seven o'clock, giving the helpers time to wake up. There is usually time for us to have a ride round and play about before breakfast. We have corn-flakes and a cooked meal, and once, when rain put the fire out, breakfast was not served till ten o'clock.

We play games, and we don't have to help with vegetables on Sunday. Dinner is a salad, with fruit to follow. Beaver and Ron tell us yarns until the helpers have finished their dinner. Then we help some of them to pack up the tents, while the others fix up something special. One year they fixed a wheel-chair to a pulley, so that it ran along a rope tied between two trees. It rushed down one way, and was hauled back on a long rope.

After all this excitement, we have tea, and our kit is taken back to school. The flag is lowered, and camp is over for another year.

STEPHEN BURTON, ALAN KERWIN, BARRIE PAGE-MITCHELL.
St. Margaret's School, Croydon.



First news from

NOTTINGHAM

'62

THE Nottingham '62 Club, launched by Mr. Hargreaves on October 23, 1962, is still afloat, in spite of storms, ice, snow and fog.

In November we planned to hold a record evening, but as this was only our second meeting, and there were so many important matters to be discussed, not much music was heard.

We did manage to run a party in January. Games were organised by the committee, and the refreshments, including trifles, provided by members of the Club, were a great success. We had lots of fun during the evening identifying members from photographs taken before the age of two. Our guests at the party included Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Wolff, who are the Chairman and Secretary of the Nottingham & District Friends of Spastics Group, Mr. J. Brunton, Warden of the new Family Relief Centre in Nottingham, and Mr. W. Laurie, who goes to so much trouble in arranging transport for members of the Club.

As there were so many other activities for spastics in

February, our next meeting was held at the beginning of March, when one of our members showed us his wonderful collection of colour films including the Lincolnshire Tulip Festival, scenes in London and local beauty spots. At this meeting we enrolled four new members from Newark. We also have a member who thinks it worth his while to travel all the way from Birmingham to our functions.

For the April meeting we had a games and handicrafts evening, some members playing table tennis, skittles or chess, while others were doing beautiful embroidery, knitting or rug making, and, of course, everybody was talking.

We are all looking forward very much to our meeting in May when our chairman, Dr. R. Firman, is to give a talk illustrated with colour slides entitled "Travels with a Geologist".

We are arranging for some of our members to visit Dudley Zoo in June. This is to be a full day's outing, with lunch and tea, and, of course, lots of sunshine.

We, like the Cardiff '62 Club, have organised a rota system for serving refreshments, and so far we have not had any spills.

Since the notification of the Nottingham '62 Club's formation in the December issue of the SPASTICS NEWS, our membership has increased to about 50. It will not be long before we catch up with London.

The Nottingham '62 Club sends sincere greetings to London, Cardiff, and any new branches which have sprouted since this tree first took root.

SHEILA LEAD,
Honorary Secretary,
Nottingham '62 Club.

THE Darlington & District Spastics Society is settling down to its first full year as owners of a holiday house.

Twenty-one, The Crescent, Redcar, has been converted into two flats—the top one with two bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom and sitting-room; the ground floor with one bedroom, a sitting-room with a bed-settee, a big kitchen and a toilet and washbasin. There is a small conservatory on the ground floor too.

Both flats have TV., cookers and refrigerators. Both look out on the sea, which is one minute's walk away across a public park.

And there are a few weeks still free, if you're not fixed up yet—in June, July and September. Terms are: for spastics, nothing; parents of spastics £1 per week each; other adults 30/- per week each; children 10/- per week each. Sheets and towels are all you need bring.

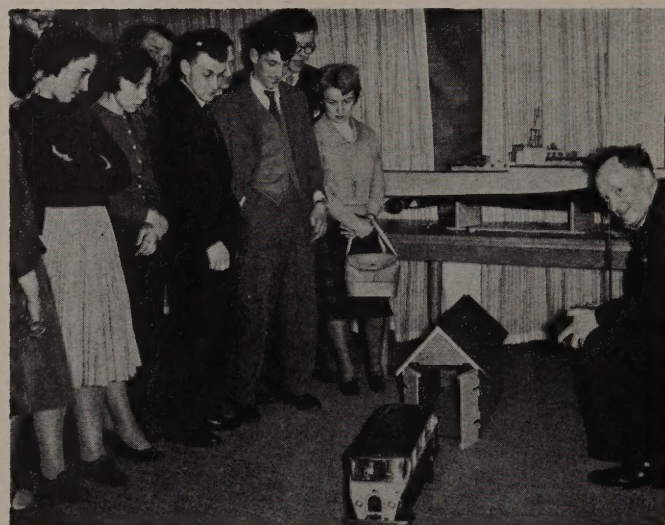
No. 21 has been re-named Singer House, in honour of the Darlington Group's Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. G. Singer, of 3 Maude Street, Darlington. Telephone: 68517. Write to him if you want to book a holiday.

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'62 Club

London



LONDON '62 CLUB enjoyed an exciting evening recently. The North-West London Model Engineering Society of which the Club Chairman, Peter West, is a member, came along and gave a talk to members, with slides and a demonstration of fascinating running models.

BRIGHTON SURVIVES SURPRISE ATTACK

City Unconscious of Danger

by Glynn Vernon, Delarue School

ONE would think a trip to Brighton would be quite a normal occurrence, but the day we went it became a major operation—for us *and* Brighton. For weeks ahead we had been planning this outing right down to the finest detail.

The biggest problem was the transport, but one of us was able to borrow his father's car, and Geoff had his own motor tricycle. Then came the problem of money. Being near the end of term we were all almost broke, but after dipping deep we found enough. We bought the food, helped towards the petrol, and we were all set.

Sunday morning came; at five to ten we gave the girls five minutes in which to get ready, and at ten-thirty they appeared. Chris and Geoff loaded us into the car, and then by some miraculous work of art fixed one wheelchair on the roof, squeezed two in the boot, and used another to make Geoff as uncomfortable as possible in his "Velocipede". Food, radios, coats, and the girls' bits and pieces were all dumped on top of the passengers and with a final "Look out Brighton" we took off like demon kings.

Tonbridge being used to our periodic invasions, we sped by (at 30 m.p.h.) without glance or comment. Once beyond this point, however, we did excite some glances of curiosity and amazement. Our entrance into Brighton was heralded by the dulcet tones of "Easy Beat" blaring from Glynn's portable.

Refreshments

We were lucky in finding parking space on the front and after prising ourselves out of the car, all seven of us made a headlong dash for the nearest refreshment centre for a drink. Much to our delight we found a juke-box which, under Christopher's mishandling luckily broke before we were. Beating a hasty retreat we found an empty seat on the promenade where we could eat our lunch.

More Refreshments

Here the girls took over. Moaning at having to do it on their own they set to, buttering and pasting. One by one we each received a more battered than buttered sandwich, which in spite of their condition were welcomed with open mouths. We bought hot-dogs to fill up the gap.

We advanced towards the pier, with Chris and Geoff pushing three chairs between them. What despair was written all over our faces when we realised we had to pay to enter! But the attendant, after inquiring as to whether we were spastics, allowed us on free. Some of the girls disappeared into the amusement arcade, only to return with empty purses. The boys, along with Carol, more sensibly (or so they thought,) sat on the pier and froze.

In order to get out of the cold, we made for a nearby waxworks, not Madame Tussauds but Louis Tussauds, where the management refused to let us pay our admission, the reason for which we discovered when we turned the corner

at the end of the first corridor and found ourselves confronted with Diana Dors and a narrow flight of stairs. There was nothing for it but to turn back, for not even with our supply of manly brawn (Chris and Geoff), could we manage this.

Food

Our stomachs soon told us it was time to find a place to have tea. Our charm at last failed us and we were informed that we would receive our tea on the pavement so that we would not block the empty restaurant with wheelchairs. This rather got our backs up and we determined to eat our meal in the restaurant, at the expense of our comfort, on normal chairs. And so there we sat in agony, eating the most expensive egg and chips we ever had. After reluctantly paying our bill, all twenty-eight shillings of it, we returned to the car.

The morning's car-loading was gone through again, but this time we were amused by the long pop-eyed looks of an inquisitive old lady who, despite some rather broad hints from one or two of our party, refused to budge until we were right out of sight.

Torture

On the return trip, Geoff, feeling rather daring, had the car roof open though, of course, he wrapped up well. He also had the remains of our lunch in his car, and periodically displayed a chocolate biscuit above the roof in a vain attempt to make the others, following behind, jealous. The journey was not uneventful, for in passing through Lewes, Geoff, gaily cruising along, found himself trying to go down a cul-de-sac; at the last second he threw out all anchors, swung the rudder hard to port, yanked the hurtling machine on to a straight course and proceeded in a north-easterly direction at 30 knots, or thereabouts.

Envoi

After a long, exciting, and rather adventurous day, we returned to school with many memories, some which were funny at the time and some which were funnier afterwards. Much remains to remind us of the day we proved ourselves as capable as anyone else and went to Brighton.



These young spastics, attending the recent Further Education Course for School Leavers at Bexhill-on-Sea, took part in British Red Cross classes for First Aid held each week throughout the course. On March 29, 1963, they all passed the first part of the 1st Certificate Examination held by the British Red Cross. One other boy passed the practical section of the examination.

Standing (L.R.): E. Richards (Yeovil), N. Glasby (Stourbridge), Noble (London), D. Smith (Chesterfield), R. Pearson (Sleaford), A. Parkin (Halifax), W. Weston (Leicester). Sitting (L.-R.): J. Arthur (Manchester), A. Jeremiah (Birmingham), P. Collard (Cardiff), J. Hockney (Lincoln), R. Walker (Preston).

THE SCHOOL & THE FAMILY

by *L. Bowstead*

Headmaster, Baginton Fields

THE title of this article needs some clarification. Perhaps a better title would have been "Our School and our Families".

What follows is an account of the organisation behind Baginton Fields School for Physically Handicapped Children with its integrated Cerebral Palsy Unit at Coventry. This is followed by a factual account of the methods by which we unite school and home.

There has been a considerable degree of success resulting from the practical approach and from team work and co-operation between all concerned in Special Education at Baginton Fields. Team work is vital at any school, clinic, or unit, especially dealing with cerebral palsy.

Baginton Fields School for Physically Handicapped is a day school for some 220 children with a wide range of handicap. There are approximately 50 children with dual or multi-handicaps.

There has always been appreciation of the fact that the physically handicapped child—particularly the cerebral palsied—is in great danger of being isolated from normal contacts. As time has passed the importance of this has become more obvious. Similarly it has long been appreciated by experienced educators in the field of Special Education that the learning difficulties of most C.P. children are such that they usually require particularly special and separate education as compared with children suffering from other physical handicaps. This was appreciated in practice by experienced teachers long before the neuro-physiological complications of C.P. had been made obvious by medical research.

Holding the Balance

Here then is the peculiar dichotomy facing those of us concerned with the education of cerebral palsied children.



Cerebral Palsied child held in reflex inhibiting posture

On one hand the essential need for a full range of normal social contacts throughout infancy and childhood, and on the other hand this need of C.P. children to be isolated for their best to profit from education in the narrow academic sense of the word.

Let me say at once however, that it is my belief that the successful education of the whole personality depends more upon the day to day contacts outside the classroom than inside. The formal processes of reading, mathematics and language are, however, also important and to the C.P. child who may be hindered by spatial, speech and directional handicaps—in addition to the obvious crippling physical handicap—it is essential that isolated and very special educational techniques be available.

How then can these apparently opposing conditions best be realised?

During the last 15 years or so we have been fortunate enough to be in a position where we can experiment in a practical situation with this problem. We have been fortunate too in having for our experiment premises which (although lacking aesthetical appeal) have been adaptable, spacious and to some extent expendable. In addition to this we have been fortunate in that Coventry L.E.A.—our employers—have always been generous in their support and comprehensive in their care for handicapped children. Indeed their expenditure per capita of population is among the highest in the country under this heading.

What then are our findings as we set out to build our new purpose-built School as a result of experience?

That the School should have all the physical buildings of adequate dimensions is perhaps stating the obvious, and yet to achieve this with ministerial price and space "ceilings" has not been easy.

Administratively the new School will be identical with the present successful set-up. The governing body is the Special Schools Committee of the Coventry L.E.A.. The staffing is conceived specifically with the idea of unified control and teamwork. All members of the staff, medical, educational and ancillary, are under the day to day administrative control of the headmaster.

We are particularly fortunate in that our consultants—both orthopaedic and paediatric—hold their clinics in the School as an extension of their National Health duties with the Regional Hospital Board.

Here the parent, the teacher, the speech therapist, the hydrotherapist, the physiotherapist, the school nursing sister and medical officers are all available at one place and one time to discuss every aspect, educational, physical, emotional, social or whatever it may be, so that the child concerned may be discussed in every facet of his complete personality and not merely as a patient, a pupil, a son or daughter.

From the child's point of view and the parents' the advantages are obvious. The individual members of the conference all learn and contribute at such clinics.

From the administrative point of view the costing of this

is advantageous also to the C.P. children, the cost per head being divided between the 220 children who make up the total—and to whom this service is of course available. However it is the 60 or so C.P. children who receive the greatest share of the time given. The parents are able to see the value of this at first hand and we have realised the importance of this contact more and more as experience grows. Consequently we have taken steps to ensure that this parental contact is encouraged at all stages of the School. One of our chief aids to this end is the school nursing sister/health visitor, plus our welfare officer.

Firstly, the School consists of a nursery where almost all the children come for the first few days with their respective mothers who are able to help and to see the routine and individual differences between the babies from two years of age. Next are two classes of children in the Nursery Transition stage before being admitted to the infant classes where a little formal work is begun. It is at this stage that the decision is made as to whether or not the individual C.P. child should go into the "unit", i.e. a series of small classes (10 children), or into the P.H. stream where classes are a little larger and methods of teaching more akin to normal schooling. This is the third and major part of the School. Do not let the word "unit" mislead you. All the School outside the classrooms is one and the C.P. children share completely in the whole School social life, clubs and out of school activities. The classes in the unit are given even numbers and the others outside the unit odd numbers. The even numbered classrooms alternate around the School with the classes outside the "unit" so that senior P.H. children are in that part of the School with others of their contemporary age range in the unit and so on throughout the School. At each stage the C.P. children share in the offices, duties and privileges of the School. At the moment of writing the head girl is a C.P. as are several of the prefects. Outside the classroom their life and duties are indistinguishable.

Parent-School Relations

Before a child is admitted to School—usually, of course, it is to the nursery, as most children are admitted when in that age range—the School makes contact with the home. Normally we have heard and read a description of the child's handicap and needs from the consultants and the School Medical Officer—this is particularly necessary in the case of children requiring priority admission. Our School Health Visitor spends a session with the parents—both if possible—and explains the objects and aims of the School. The parents are invited to visit the School during school hours, and if necessary transport is provided for them to do so. We find that this approach helps the parents to assess the School and it helps us to get a good relationship with the parents. Usually older children act as guides to the parents and these guides are perhaps our best ambassadors. When the day comes for the child to be admitted arrangements have been made for daily free transport either by ambulance (with or without chair lift), by coach, by taxi or by private car. The parent—usually mother—is encouraged to remain at School until the child is entirely settled and we are at pains to encourage the parents to visit us whenever in doubt. We make it plain too that we shall similarly ask for advice and co-operation from them from time to time. The importance of this early foundation of inter-dependence cannot be over-stressed.

It is at this time, with the help of the parents, that the written assessment of the child's needs, possibilities and capabilities is begun—once confidence has been established. This



Mixed handicaps at play. Children benefit from the widest range of contacts during play

confidence usually first appears between sister/health visitor and mother.

In cases of difficulty financially, help can be given, such as free meals or footwear (special or otherwise). It is interesting to note, however, that the maximum payment for school meals in this Coventry School is 4d. per day.

With a day school of this kind there are many advantages—particularly in regard to keeping in touch with school life and home life. This contact we find is usually most important in the nursery and infant stage. The urgency then seems to ease, through the junior and early secondary stage, only to become vital as the children begin to appreciate the difficulties which beset them on reaching their teens.

School-Leavers

During the last year at School—the minimum leaving age is 16—the contact with School and parents must be of the closest. It is during this year the School Youth Employment Officer, the teachers and headmaster, in co-operation with parents, try to strike a balance between the idealistic dreams of the leaver with the realities of the handicap and the employment situation.

To enable these assessments to be based on judgments which have materialised over a period—rather than the snap judgments which were and perhaps are the rule in some situations—the detailed assessment records are available.

Where possible photographic and cinematographic records are used and in cases of doubt the detailed day by day individual records of the class teacher and the medical comments of the consultants over the years are there available in the School for consultation.

The leavers' panel under the guidance of the Youth Employment Officer again consists of all those persons able to contribute plus the addition of the Special Schools Education Officer. The addition of this officer at the Leavers' Conference is exceptionally valuable, particularly in cases where further education is desirable after school leaving. Many leavers have received exceptional facilities for Further Education either in the School or in co-operation with other branches of education, either at home or in schools and colleges.

In the course of my duties as an advisor it has been my good fortune to visit and assess many of the colleges for the training and education of the handicapped both under the

auspices of educational bodies and Ministry of Labour. This, too, has been of great value in placing youngsters for whom suitable employment has neither been immediately wise nor perhaps available.

I think it is generally agreed that successfully educated handicapped persons should integrate with society in the widest normal possible way. Experienced workers with the C.P. know too that this is often a process which is sometimes painful, slow and gradual, to a varying degree and in the worst cases I fear unattainable.

We find that the method used by our Old Pupils' Association is a tremendous help to the young people in achieving this integration—particularly for those who are "clubbable".

During their last three terms at School, membership of the Old Pupils' Association is open free to the members of the School. In this way the gap between school days and after school days is bridged to some extent. Further the facilities and functions of the Old Pupils' Association, both social and otherwise, are shared by the non-handicapped boy friends and girl friends of the members. This is a positive step towards integration, the movement being in both directions through the invisible barrier.

The size of the School is an asset to the C.P. unit in many ways and not the least at this stage of the development of young people. Probably more social difficulty arises from the wide I.Q. range than from any other cause. The I.Q. varies from children who in many authorities would be considered as "unfitted for formal education" up to boys and girls with a few "O" levels—the range at present being from doubtful educability up to 140 plus.

Day and Residential Schools

One of the major factors which makes for suitable size in a school and unit such as this is the population of handicapped children—this in its turn reflects the size of the conurbation which the School serves. By chance this provides us with a School roll sufficiently large to provide the facilities previously mentioned. Our children are drawn from the city of Coventry in the main, with some 30 or so more heavily handicapped children from Kenilworth, Bedworth and the county areas around.

The situation for more scattered population distribution is more difficult and, of course, day schooling is out of the

question. This is, of course, well appreciated by the Society. Nevertheless, I believe that where a local education authority of a rural area is persuaded to do its public duty *adequately* a residential P.H. School with a C.P. unit similarly included could well prove equally valuable. I'm personally a strong believer in handicapped children being given an equal right with other children for education suited to their age, ability, aptitude and handicap at public expense. Whether that right is accepted is surely a matter for parental choice just as with our private and state schools for the child who is not handicapped.

In my own area I feel that the L.E.A. has done its duty admirably in regard to Special Education from the age of 2 up to 16 plus, but I am most concerned that many heavily handicapped young people everywhere are left in comparative isolation in the restricted environment of ageing parents after having enjoyed their early years among their school friends. Again, personally speaking, I feel strongly that every effort should be made to deal with this both by voluntary bodies—who have shown the way—and by local authorities who have been most tardy in accepting real responsibility for those who need a great deal of help in becoming employable as well as those who may never be employed.

Emotional Handicap

From time to time mention has been made of the emotional handicap from which most physically handicapped children suffer—and cerebral palsied children not the least—in addition to and parallel with their more obvious disability. It is in this battle with the hidden enemy that school and family must unite most carefully and closely.

It is our experience that in the early Special Education of C.P. children the emotional handicap is the first handicap which must be treated. Until emotional stability has been conquered physical and academic progress is minimal. Confidence of the right kind must be established and sometimes I believe that the best intentioned parents can err the most. I refer of course to the over protective parents who are often also over indulgent.

It is our aim to help the parents to understand the necessity for insisting that the child is permitted to do as much as possible for himself as his stage of treatment and physical condition will permit. We find that grandparents are often the "niggers in the woodpile" where over-protection and spoiling are concerned. It is a sad but true fact that these children are destined to face an uphill fight all the way through life and to this end training and experience in obedience to the wishes of parents, kindly and firmly expressed, is a prerequisite for successful treatment both in the physiotherapy department and in the classroom. So often do we find kindly intentioned parents who will tell us that they never insist on this or that and consequently their child is the little dictator of the household. These children are not the most happy, even when very young. A kindly insistence on obedience during infancy and childhood is conducive to stability and a reliance on an ordered form of existence helps to build confidence which will stand the child in good stead throughout life.

Rejection by Parents

We find, too, that in our experience over-protection and over-indulgence by parents in the child's early years sometimes, alas, turns to rejection when the difficult 'teens arrive. A very large proportion of our time is spent with parents



Constructing a sectional greenhouse which was presented to the School provided an excellent opportunity to think in terms of size

who are over indulgent, both by our visiting them and (perhaps more importantly in the worst cases) in them visiting us.

Usually the first contacts (other than with our Health Visitor) are made during the Consultants' Clinics at School or during the School Medical Officer's clinics held also at the School. Parents are anxious—sometimes of course and naturally too, they are over anxious—to do all that they can in co-operating, especially in the early days when they are optimistically expecting progress to be much quicker than experience shows us to be usual. Then possibly a reaction sets in. This too must be expected, counteracted, and extra assistance must be given to parents when this stage is suspected. We find our therapists are often our greatest allies at this stage. So often they can give parents something positive to do for the children long before the child is number-conscious, reading-ready or at any of the recognised rungs on the educational step ladder where parental participation can be enjoyed. So often the educational pathway is hidden by the emotional fog. As a result progress is delayed even with intelligent C.P. children, and the stages of educational growth and physical maturity with the less gifted are often many years behind the norm.



Two nursery children communicate

Here too guidance is necessary especially where there are physically fit children in the family. The danger here is twofold. In some cases odious and unfair comparisons are made between the siblings to the detriment of the C.P. child. More often, however, the C.P. child is pampered by the family to the detriment of the fitter children. This leads to another situation fraught with danger, inasmuch as we have the seeds of jealousy planted in the heart of the child who we in the school perhaps shall never see but of whom we will be very well aware. Often it appears that such children spoil their handicapped brother or sister even more than the doting parent—especially if the C.P. child be the youngest in the family. The opposite situation would appear to us more wholesome—that is where younger and normal children press hard on the developmental heels of the C.P. child.

There are, however, a number of handicapped children who are rejected in varying degrees either by both or by one parent. Sometimes it is obvious to all, at other times we suspect that the parent is unwilling to accept this situation and hides it not only from the world at large but from

himself or herself. Then there are variations on this theme—the over protective mother of the helpless young child gradually becomes disillusioned by the failure of treatments, by the sheer weight of work in caring for the growing and helpless teenager and as the years pass rejection has taken place. Protection has been replaced by vituperation. All these situations are relative but in every case the relationship between home and school is vital and can mean the difference between success and failure.



Water play. An important stage in child development

In such situations as these obviously the approach for parental co-operation calls for the utmost tact and care. Otherwise the vital relationship between school and family might easily be ruined—and the one to suffer most is the child in question.

Continued Home Contacts

Often some emotional upheaval is the detonator, and here the importance of continual family contact by the Health Visitor is emphasised. Provided this is available we have two lines of approach which can be used to alleviate the situation before chronic harm is caused.

One line of action which has frequently been successfully used depends on our co-operation with the paediatrician who

has been able to arrange for the timely transfer of the child to his hospital ward while rehabilitation is taking place at the child's home. Less frequently the parent, usually the mother, has been admitted to hospital for residential care when a breakdown is imminent or has unfortunately occurred.

Liaison with Local Society and with Local Authorities

The local Spastics Society keeps emergency beds at their Home in Meriden. One of these has been used to provide the relief urgently needed on occasions and transport to and from there has been arranged daily by the school authorities. Only this week the kindly co-operation of the Warden of our Hostel for Maladjusted Children provided a bed for a child who was in the throes of an emotional upheaval consequent on the desertion of her foster mother by her foster father. In a case like this the headmaster has to be in touch with a variety of departments all to some extent responsible for the child's welfare. In this case School Health Department, County Children's Officer, Assistant Education Officer for Special Services, Child Guidance Centre and the Senior School Medical Officer are all deeply concerned, as well as the internal departments of the School. Liaison and co-operation must be swift and, of course, it is essential that the full up-to-date medical, social and educational records should be on hand. Here the efficiency of the School secretarial department proves its value as the information centre through which all the confidential documents are immediately applied and whose switchboard is humming purposefully meanwhile.

Freedom to Explore

There is one more vital sphere in which the family needs guidance more frequently than one would expect. This is in the matter of play and exploration of environment. The normal child makes this exploration often, in spite of mis-

guided restrictions. The handicapped child must be permitted and helped to explore. This is the basis for natural progress and development.

We have put together a series of 8 mm. film much of it shot during the play and activity periods where C.P. and non-C.P. children are enjoying each other's company. These films are very useful as examples for parents to see. Many parents are surprised to see the independence shown by their own children in such a situation and I hope readers will appreciate the intention of these unrehearsed scenes from our School. Many of you will know the delight shown by some of your children on being permitted to feel the sand or soil running between the fingers or the experience of rolling on the grass—far more basic a joy than that provided by the most expensive chromium-plated roadster.

I have tried to show our attempts at the solution of the problem which faces school and family. There is always the problem of personalities no matter how good the system. Perhaps the most successful Head is he (or she) who is most successful in blending together the multitude of personal efforts into a channel of friendly co-operation. He must make certain that all the useful forces are being effectively applied and to ensure that no friction or opposing forces mar the efficiency of the human machinery which, by its very nature, is also heir to emotional inefficiency. These terms are scientific but the acquisition of such skills is an art. Happy is he who is the fortunate possessor of the art, the team and the system to ensure success.

Finally, those of you who work in schools will know, I am sure, that home and school must be united as one family, and that changes of staff can be as dangerous as losses within the family. Emotion can sometimes be a help; more often a danger, and yet love and compassion can (when intelligently given) smooth out the mountains of difficulty for the handicapped child whom we serve.

Pleasure in Swimming

SWIMMING is a worthwhile pastime for any person. Besides giving pleasure the body benefits from the exercises which swimming demands.

Coombe Farm Centre acquired a swimming pool twelve months ago when Richard Hearne ("Mr. Pastry") very kindly raised a large sum of money in order to have it built.

The residents of Coombe Farm use their pool as frequently as possible. Every Thursday evening a team of instructors come to the Centre to give the residents swimming instruction. This is, indeed, a great responsibility for the instructors, because before any one can learn to swim confidence is needed.

The swimming pool is also used for physiotherapy and speechtherapy. A disabled person generally finds greater ease in activities in water than on "dry land", the reason for this is that the water takes the weight from the limbs thus helping the swimmer to forget his disability and achieve the various stages of swimming. From the angle of speechtherapy,



swimming requires careful, regular breathing and as progress is made in swimming so one's normal breathing improves.

Despite the residents' different handicaps swimming is very much favoured, and as a result of its popularity we have formed our own swimming club, which is known as the "Scampi Swimming Club".

We look forward to great success with our swimming in the years to come.

With best wishes from the Secretary of the "Scampi Swimming Club"—

ANN B. PEARCE.

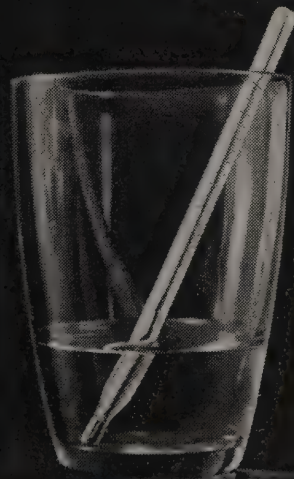
THRIVING WORK CENTRE



Liverpool Spastic Fellowship's Day Centre (adult section) does a flourishing trade in small baskets for flowers or chocolate, sweet trays, doll calendars, leather purses and belts. Many of these can be made for customers on order by post, and enquiries should be addressed to Mrs. W. R. Woodall, 7 The Greenway, Liverpool 12

minor ailments of today

feverishness



When your body is fighting germs, its temperature regulating mechanism is disturbed and your temperature rises. We say, inaccurately and sorrowfully, that we 'have a temperature'—when what we mean is that our temperature is above normal.

Now some people believe that a raised temperature helps your body to fight infection, and this may be true. But it is also true that 'a temperature' is very uncomfortable, and that you undoubtedly feel a lot better if you take something to bring your temperature down. Feeling better has a lot to do with getting better—and that is why most doctors prescribe acetyl salicylic acid for high temperature, and why most of us take 'ASPRO' when we feel a bit feverish.

Incidentally, 'ASPRO' brings your temperature back to normal and no lower.

Next time you feel feverish, don't forget 'ASPRO'. You will not only be taking one of the best and safest anti-pyretics or fever reducers, but also sparing the Doctor's time for those with more serious complaints. If your fever persists then is the time to consult your Doctor.





COOMBE FARM 1957-1963

Credits and Debits of a Residential Centre

by *F. W. Bowyer, M.A., Warden*

SEVEN years is indeed a short span of time but when that seven years covers the growth of a Residential Centre from a small handful to the present forty-six heavily handicapped residents, of whom thirty-six are chairbound, then a whole gamut of experience is gained, and the lessons learnt should mean that the mistakes that are still made are at any rate new ones!

Problems and difficulties in the early days were numerous. Some of these have been resolved, many still await an answer.

In the realm of bricks and mortar, shortage of space and toilets and the lack of an assembly room were real hindrances to efficiency. The new extension was a generous answer to these difficulties but the price of progress is such that we have quickly outgrown the new workshop and like *Oliver Twist* we continue shamelessly to cry for more!

In the world of therapy many adjustments have been necessary and it is a tribute to our present therapists that they have trained themselves to accept and work with the mental and physical rigidity of heavily handicapped young adults rather than the comparative flexibility of children.

The distressingly rapid turnover of Houseparent Staff represents a problem so far without solution, and if a Staff Training College can help to meet this continuous emergency its creation will be amply justified.



In the daily life of the Workshop it was quickly realised that craft alone could never constitute a full and permanent vocation. Machinery has been purchased and a light assembly unit brought into being. Local engineering firms have been most co-operative and it is an obvious encouragement for heavily handicapped youngsters to feel part of normal industrial life. Quite considerable sums of money are earned by

this means and the proceeds are paid to the residents according to effort they make rather than the turnover they achieve, a form of apostolic communism which would seem to have everything to commend it.

The working week includes adult education, art classes and, of course, individual and group activities by the physiotherapist and speech therapist. The rigid pattern of a working day, which is imposed on everyone, whatever the degree of handicap, makes an incalculable contribution to the tone and morale of the Centre's life. If individual residents have a personal pursuit which is concrete and worthwhile every effort is made to fit this into the daily pattern as long as such activities constitute real work and not the vague daydreams of a dilettanté.

Family Discipline

At Coombe Farm, by reason of our category of heavy handicap, mental attainment and emotional adjustment lag far behind strict chronological age. Because of this factor, at this Centre, we attempt, with apology, to give life a pattern and a form which must at times bear hardly on the individual. Society, if it is to endure, must in varying degrees restrict individual liberty, and to equate happiness with complete personal freedom, could only result in anarchy and the law of the jungle. In a closeknit community, therefore, which is a microcosm of the world outside, individuals must at times bow to the good of the whole, and in so doing find a richer rather than a lesser fulfillment. But having said this, it is also our privilege and duty to foster individual gifts and to give sectional interests and pursuits the widest possible scope. In fact, to bring into being a family wherein the exuberant extrovert and the lethargic cabbage can live happily side by side and gain from rather than frustrate each others lives. It would be presumptuous to claim that so precarious a point of balance is always achieved but such, at any rate, is our objective and goal.

The Older Spastic

After seven years of life Coombe Farm is becoming inevitably an ageing community and it is borne in on us that the techniques and methods evolved to bring alive retarded adolescents do not necessarily apply to residents who by valiant effort are in their own right becoming adults. Such residents find the brash intimacy of community living a real problem and need and have earned a measure of privacy and social independence. Coombe Farm was designed primarily for those whose disability makes necessary some type of institutional care for the whole span of life. We shall always very eagerly seek to launch away from the family those whose growth and development means they should try their wings in the world outside, but by the very nature of our constitution they will always form a small minority. For the great majority, as they journey down the years, some progressive provision must be made within the shelter of residential care. The solution would seem to lie, it is generally agreed, in the creation of reasonably small domestically autonomous units. Here an adult and socially independent life could be lived and the dangers of an inbred and aimless existence escaped by sharing the general services of the Centre and remaining a part of the working day.

Facing Life's Handicap

A residential centre stands or falls, not by its buildings, its equipment or its beautifully kept accounts, but by the

bitter sweet of the lives which comprise it. After seven years our memories linger round individual victories and failures, on gallant struggles towards independence, on setbacks and regressions. Emotional attachments and love affairs are frequent and to deal wisely yet compassionately with so normal an instinct needs at times a Solomon-like wisdom.

Our residents are not spared cruel personal bereavements and we dare to believe that the sense of belonging they gain at Coombe Farm makes some contribution in helping them to face such losses with courage and understanding.

Problems and tensions at home are not uncommon and some parents find it difficult to let go and to welcome and applaud their child's approach to adulthood. It is never easy for the handicapped to grow up and when parents, their love

over-riding wisdom, cannot release their protecting arms, then the battle is doubly difficult.

These things are the very substance of our days and make or mar our family life. We of the staff stand, maybe, too close to the problem and because of impatience and weariness we are all too often dismayed at the slow progress, at the falling back, and we fail to thrill sufficiently to the very real victories that do occur.

The heavily handicapped have an excuse for lethargy and inertia which we, supposedly whole, can never hope to understand—that so many disregard that excuse and gallantly struggle on, climbing upward all the time, is to their eternal credit and for us an inspiration and a spur to more understanding service.



(Photograph: H. Stocks)

Egremont Rover Scout Crew were snapped at one of their regular monthly week-end camps at Irtton Hall School. There they have voluntarily taken on maintenance and improvement work. The picture shows the Rovers engaged in stream clearing and repairing the perimeter fence



The Daresbury Seminar was the first of a series of discussions, interspersed with lectures and films, which are taking place in our Centres between administrators, doctors, a psychiatric social worker, members of the Management Committee and houseparents, teachers and therapists. Another such seminar has already been held at Coombe Farm, and the principle of everyone teaching everyone has proved so successful that these seminars will be extended—eventually, it is hoped, to Group Centres also

Journeys into Music

DURING the past year at Tixover Grange we have taken full advantage of the many varied musical events in our neighbourhood. These have included regular visits to some very fine concerts which were held in the Hall of Uppingham School. Attendance at these concerts has been confined to the more senior pupils, but the entire School have, at one time or another, enjoyed Gilbert and Sullivan Productions given by Stamford Operatic Society, the most recent of which being "Iolanthe" and "Ruddigore", which were immense fun and enjoyed by all.

It was with some apprehension on my part that I accompanied the pupils. To all of them this was their first introduction into the more dignified assembly peculiar to the concert hall. However, my fears were soon dispelled by the

composed self-assurance and confidence of the pupils to meet the rarefied atmosphere.

The great audience of concert-lovers of this intellectual community were not in the least perturbed by the attendance of our "spastic" pupils—in fact one felt their warm reaction to their attendance as kindred spirits sharing emotional and cultural experiences.

Looking back over the past year we have indeed covered a great musical repertoire from the sombre tone of Verdi's Requiem to Mozart's light opera "Cosi Fan Tutte".

We at Tixover are left with no doubts as to the extent of pleasure our pupils gain by their musical ventures. This is illustrated by the countless number of times one is asked, "When is the next concert?" or "Who's going to the next concert?"

It is, I think, a significant factor and well worthy of note to call to mind the interest all of the senior pupils take in these concerts. Even if it should not be their particular turn to go, on return they ask the most searching questions and discuss the music and events in a most enthusiastic manner.

*Mr. Pat Jones.
Houseparent—Wilfred Pickles School.*

News

in brief

Swansea

Lord Brecon, Minister of State for Welsh Affairs, was so impressed with the work done at Swansea Work Centre, that he has made a presentation gift of a record player to the Spastics Society.

The Landlady's Library



(Photograph: Courtesy Huddersfield Examiner)

A flourishing little library is being run by Mrs. Whitwam in the lounge of her public house, the Albion Inn, at Longroyd Bridge. Mrs. Whitwam has put to work for a good cause a number of books she has read and done with.

Customers wishing to borrow a book are asked for a minimum donation of 3d. towards The Spastics Society, and the Society has now benefited by nearly £75. The letters TPOYCIAPFTS above the bar stand for "The Price of Your Curiosity is a Penny for The Spastics".

Obituary

MR. J. B. CARR

We regret to announce the death of Mr. J. B. Carr, who for ten years was treasurer of the Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association. He was held in great esteem by all who knew him. The Association has lost a faithful member.

Norwich

The recently elected Miss N.A.N.S.A. presented prizes at a bazaar arranged by the Girls' Club (assisted by adults) in the village of Pulham St. Mary, Norwich.

As a result of the bazaar, the sale of waste paper, and the proceeds from collecting boxes, £110 was sent to the Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association.

Pub Pennies



(Photograph: Courtesy Banbury Guardian)

Aiming to beat his own record is Harry Handy, licensee of the Jolly Weavers Hotel, South Bar, Banbury.

Three years ago, when licensee of Steeple Aston, Harry and his wife raised £50 for the Spastics Society. Today the stack of pennies in the main lounge of their pub measures three and a half feet, with half-crowns, ten-shillings and one pound notes inside the pile.

There is no notice telling customers what it is for. "It's much more successful to wait for customers to ask", says Harry.



(Photograph: Courtesy Blackburn Times)

Young Frank Aspinall's idol became his friend not long ago. And from now on, whenever Burnley F.C. play at Blackburn, their goalkeeper, Adam Blacklaw, will travel to Company Street, Rishton, in his car to collect the ten-years-old spastic boy who idolises him.

It is a dream come true for Frank, whose great love is football.

He was driven to the ground and, as the picture above shows, duly met his idol. He was then given a seat of honour from which he watched Burnley beat their opponents, Aston Villa, by three goals to one.

Frank's parents are grateful to the local police, who came to their aid in arranging suitable transport for their son and his wheelchair



Here's Shirley Keene presenting a Bell to the crew of the S.S. Orsova somewhere at sea between Singapore and Fremantle. The total collected by the crew of this vessel to date is £187 15s. 5d. From left to right: Mr. J. E. Bates, 1st Barkeeper, Mr. S. H. Timmins, 2nd Steward, Mr. C. A. Delchay, Chef, Mr. T. A. Wilkinson, Chief Steward, Mr. B. E. Allchin 2nd Barkeeper



(Photograph: Courtesy Oxford Mail)

If it raises money, it's all right. Twenty-eight Bicester Round Tablers climbed into their prams one cheerful Monday not long ago, and raced through the town propelled by twenty-eight dogged chaps clothed in track suits, aprons and anxiety. The Launton Layabouts won a barrel of beer. And the Spastics fund won £100

Grantham and District

Chairman of Grantham Swimming Club, Mrs. B. J. Thorpe and her helpers, regularly take a number of handicapped children to Cranwell by bus and give them swimming instructions. Mrs. Thorpe recently gave a talk to the Grantham and District Parents' Association "Swimming and the Handicapped Child."

(Edited from Grantham Journal)

Cardiff

The Cardiff Group were able to open their Centre in June of 1960 due to the initiative and enterprise of Mrs. E. M. Keane the Centre's Supervisor. After three years of splendid work among very heavily handicapped spastics, many of them having mental problems, she has decided to take up a post of a teacher to maladjusted children in June of this year.

The group is very grateful for the work done by Mrs. Keane during her stay at the Centre. Her devotion to the children will be missed greatly, and members of the group all join to wish her every success when she takes up her new appointment.

Mr. R. A. May, the Group's Honorary Treasurer, after some nine years of very valuable service, has unfortunately had to relinquish this important office, as other commitments at his place of employment will prevent him from looking after the Group's accounts in future. Members extend to him their sincere thanks and all are delighted that he is available still as a committee member.

Summer Plans. The Group is hoping to organise a Cycle Gymkhana during the summer in conjunction with the Bicycle Polo Association of Great Britain. Local cycling clubs are being asked to contribute to the programme which will include a bicycle polo match whose two teams will include the star players of England and Wales. A trophy will be presented to the winning team, and it is hoped that the event will bring in an unusually large sum.

Kew Gardens Started as a Hobby

SUMMER holidays are with us again and many of you will be visiting London in the next few months. You will find many things to do and to see, but if you want to spend a relaxing day away from the hustle and bustle you could do no better than visit Kew Gardens.

Scientists, gardeners, bird watchers, patriots and lovers of nature for her own sake, can all find much to interest them at Kew which as the poet, Alfred Noyes, reminds us, "isn't far from London."

Unlike the sad story of "less happier lands" many royal estates in England have in the course of time become public property by the goodwill of all concerned, and so have strengthened the bonds of affection which always have existed between the British people and their Royal Family. Such is the case with Kew, which also gives an interesting example of a charming hobby shared by a Royal mother and son.

Two centuries ago, Princess Augusta, for her own pleasure, made a small botanic garden around her private residence, Kew House, which has now disappeared. Nearby lived her son, later George III, who inherited his mother's love for flowers. Eventually the road between their gardens was removed, though it is still represented by a pathway in Kew Gardens called the Holly Walk. Thus was formed the world famous Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. In this, their official title, the plural "gardens" commemorates the dual origin.

Orderly and Wild

The resulting 300 acres reveal the infinite variety of creation. To most of us, holly, for instance, is just a common tree with festive associations. But the long Holly Walk is lined with many species of holly, all of them distinct. We have all seen rhododendrons of gigantic growth covered in large—dare we say blowsy—? blooms. But Kew contains species which are tiny shrubs with modest starlike blossoms no bigger than cornflowers. Wisely, they flower early before they are overshadowed by their more flamboyant relatives.

Among this vast gathering of exotic plants are 37 acres, given to the nation by Queen Victoria who wisely stipulated that this area should remain in a semi-wild state. Accordingly, apart from a few clearings made to give lovely woodland vistas, the undergrowth of bramble has been left beneath a profusion of trees typical of an English woodland. This is the favourite haunt of birds numbering over 100 species which honour Kew Gardens with their patronage and charm us with their singing.

Simple nature lovers may smile at what seems a snobbish practice of affixing Latin names to such homely trees—oak, ash, beech, birch being labelled *Quercus*, *Fraxinus*, *Fagus*, *Betula*, their varieties also distinguished in Latin. Such learned classification is necessary in a place of universal attraction such as Kew. For the names in our mother tongue are

learned unconsciously or are easily ascertained while Latin names are understood by experts the world over.

This delightful little wilderness surrounds the Queen's Cottage, a thatched, ivy-covered summerhouse built for George III as a picnic place and shooting box. It could have no other use, for its interior is as freakish as its exterior is idyllic. With two rooms, one above the other and two more so-called kitchens, it has four entrances and two staircases. Yet to get from the kitchen to the lower living-room one must go outside or up one flight of stairs, across the upper room, and down again.

Ten Storeys High

Among other focal points of woodland vistas is the purely ornamental Pagoda, 163 feet high, each of its ten octagonal storeys a foot less in height and diameter than the one below. The several roofs jut out and turn upward like the brim of a hat. They must have been truly impressive in former days when each roof was coated with many coloured varnish, the corners adorned with iron dragons covered in many coloured glass.

Another noted landmark is the Flagstaff, of Douglas Fir. When its top was attacked by a fatal wood fungus, a new spar was kindly given by the Government of British Columbia in association with various timber concerns in that Province, to commemorate the foundation of British Columbia, 1858, and of Kew Gardens, 1759. It evokes thoughts of tough lumberjacks in faraway Canada remembering, and wishing to be remembered in this repository of beauty and knowledge, one of many glories of Old England.

On sunny days the pond, haunt of mallard, coot, and similar ornamental waterfowl, dances and sparkles between the simple yet imposing General Museum and the gleaming, glass-and-iron-built Palm House. In due season its edges are beautified with lovely iris, sedges, and rambler roses. A guardian oak has sprung from an acorn from the battlefields of Verdun. An unforgettable Weeping Willow droops long, slender, golden branches gracefully towards the water.

Startling in their expressions of vitality and vigour, two stone Chinese lions overlook the Pond. Here, too, are perhaps the most interesting of many historic links with Royalty—replicas by Mr. James Woodford, O.B.E., R.A., the same sculptor who carved the originals of the famous Queen's Beasts, which at the time of Her Majesty's Coronation stood outside Westminster Abbey. They represent animals, some mythical, some factual, of heraldic significance, and so recall much of our great island story and the many ancient lineages which converge in our Monarchy, the oldest, most firmly rooted, yet most vigorous in the world.

G. GORDON LISTER,
British Home for Incurables.

SOUTH-EAST REGION

The new Regional Office at 296 Linkfield Lane, Redhill, Surrey, now has a telephone number: Redhill 3944 and 2250.



LADYBIRD LANE

by Sarah E. Francis

Hodder & Stoughton, 15s.

THIS book is written by a teacher and is primarily concerned with her experiences when teaching at Ladybird Lane, a school for educationally backward children in the down town area of a large city. The first chapters are devoted to her experiences when teaching in a Borstal institution, perhaps to point out the depressing similarity of outlook of authority when coping either with dull children or dull delinquents—a pre-occupation with discipline and a corresponding poverty of any positive thinking or approaches to the problems that require action and sustained understanding. This book demonstrates painfully clearly the unacknowledged fear of many of us when faced with a group who cannot be relied upon to be socially reasonable in all

situations, when discipline can seem a security and become an end in itself to the detriment of any true relationship. (There are two headmasters during Mrs. Francis' time at Ladybird Lane, and their differences of outlook concerning discipline and the effects on the school are very interesting to note.)

There is not a lot said about the actual technique of teaching the educationally backward, although one gathers that Mrs. Francis had a reasonable success there. I found it slightly disturbing however to note that teachers as well as parents were very anxious to keep children at school even when it was obvious that they were mentally incapable of coping with the pressures of a classroom—one can only imagine the anxiety of a

child whose best placement is not in a school, when both teacher and parent regard it as a point of honour that he should be placed where he cannot cope. In the main, however, the staff at the school appear to have been very devoted and to have willingly put up with the inconvenience of an appalling school building, with no proper medical facilities, playground or classroom accommodation.

Quite a large proportion of the book is devoted to case histories of the pupils, and illustrates the social and financial difficulties of their parents. Mrs. Francis wisely blames a lot of the children's emotional difficulties on their parents' irregular ways of life, and though she appears to have been almost too shocked for a mature person by the immorality, poverty and appalling housing conditions she found, she did her best to help her pupils in a practical way and obviously gave great thought to them in and out of school hours.

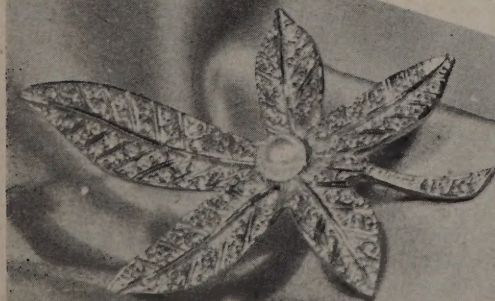
M. F. Glossop.

Midsummer Moonshine

Making holiday plans? Thinking of golden beaches—high mountains—flower-drenched fiestas—evenings under a warm summer moon.

Add glamour to your holiday nights and help those who must stay at home. Buy yourself or your friends jewellery made by spastic home workers—sparkling ear-clips, brooches, necklaces in shimmering ice white crystal or a fall of glowing colour.

Write to Mr. Hargreaves at 12 Park Crescent, W.1



Letters to the Editor

THEN & NOW

Dear Editor,

When I was born, over 40 years ago, much less was known about spasticity than today.

When I was about five years old I was given a wooden horse on wheels. It was a much more substantial affair than those one sees today, with a thicker base, wider wheels, and a lovely firm handle. I trundled that Dobbin about by the hour, and it helped me with my walking.

I received help and encouragement of different kinds from various relatives. One would teach me to walk correctly by sending me on errands to different parts of the room, and making me put my feet down flat with every step. Another had a lot of moss and other green stuff under a glass case in the window, and I had to walk across the room to see that. And in the chest-of-drawers on the other side of the room were some pretty kindergarten things, and I had to walk back to look at them. Yet another relative had a plank with footmarks chalked on it. This was propped up against a chair, and

I had to walk up it, placing my feet exactly in the marks. On reaching the top I was rewarded; the plank was reversed, leaving the blank side uppermost, and I was allowed to "honeypot" down.

MURIEL DELL,
Horley, Surrey.

CELEBRITIES IN SOUTHEND

Dear Editor,

On Thursday, May 2, 1963, at the Southend Spastic Centre, we had a wonderful occasion. Averil Angers with the company of the "Fol de Rols" came from our Palace Theatre, also the Press men from our local papers—we had a right do. They were all very interested in our Centre and what the spastics were doing.

We owe a great deal to our Publicity Officer, Mr. A. Leader, who organized all this. He did a first-class job with the co-operation of the Committee who all worked very hard to make it a great success.

JOAN MILLER,
Southend-on-Sea.



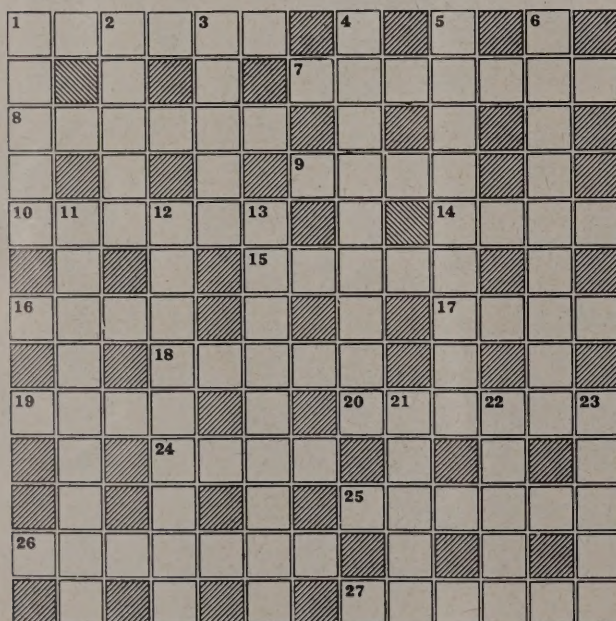
Dear Editor,

Here is a picture of Albert Tatlock and Miss Nugent, stars of "Coronation Street", who, together with the Littlewood Black and White Minstrels, helped to raise over £300 at the Southport Formby and District's Coffee Evening recently. Between 450 and 500 people attended. The money is to go towards the Group's projected Holiday Home.

W. BROWN,
Hon. Secretary,
Southport Formby and
District Group.

Over £300 in one evening! That's over 10s. per coffee cup, very neat indeed. Has anyone ever beaten this, short of a full scale dance? Nice to see Mr. J. Howarth in our pages again. He's been pushing over beacons so fast we haven't been able to keep up with him lately.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 36



ACROSS

1. The mark of an idle M.P.? 5.
7. Put back a law. 7.

8. — after this. 6.
9. It itemizes all possible courses open. 4.
10. Doubtless knifelike among gentlemen of the Press. 6.
14. Slip of the tongue presumably. 4.
15. An extinct bird at one end of the island. 5.
16. Red hot rill? 4.
17. Excursion just before the Fall maybe. 4.
18. Of them—no more need be said. 5.
19. To a Grecian Urn, to a Nightingale, to his Mistress' Eyebrows. 4.
20. A run for the office boy. 6.
24. Achilles' braggart friend. 4.
25. Pieces of bullion. 6.
26. Travels like old rogues. 7.
27. To him irrepressible is no word at all. 6.

DOWN

1. "He touch'd the tender stops of various quills, with eager thought warbling his . . . lay." John Milton. 5.
2. Ample source of sugar. 5.
3. Naturally the Dales had to change them. 5.
4. Quoth the raven! 9.
5. The shock absorber in our last. 9.
6. The very start of a reign. 9.
11. Captured he could expect cavalier treatment. 9.
12. A relative to shy at! 4,5.
13. One answer to the Tower of Babel so to speak. 9.
21. Carry on again with an answer. 5.
22. An artist joins the start of 6 in Ghana. 5.
23. "She . . . among the untrodden ways Beside the springs of Dove", W. Wordsworth. 5.

FLAT

to Let for Holidays

Self-contained Furnished Bungalow Flat, situated on coast road between Land's End and St. Ives. Suitable for family with a spastic child. Can sleep two adults and two children. Easy access to garden. Write for particulars to Mrs. Pengelly, The Haven, Pendeen, Penzance, Cornwall.

CRAFTSMANSHIP IN WOOD FOR YOUR HOME

Roy Matthews, 15 Victoria Avenue, Wellington, makes household articles in wood, and can accept orders by post. Prices are:

Fruit Bowls—£2 0 0 post free

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He can also supply various types of wooden handles at modest prices. Enquiries should be sent to Roy direct.

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"Shut-in's" Day

The first Sunday in June (June 2), was "Shut-in's" Day—a special day to remember the sick—aged—lonely people in hospitals, institutions and their own homes—and all disabled people who are unable to take part in the social life of the community.

The "Shut-in's" Day Association asks all who can to remember someone. A visit—books—flowers—letter-cards for the children, toys and sweets will give so much pleasure.

Outside Orders for Local Groups Centres

Would the Supervisors of Local Group Centres please write to the SPASTICS NEWS if they are able to undertake one-off or short-run special orders for making articles, in any category? A directory of these centres will be published in due course. Please will you describe the articles you can make on order fairly closely—i.e. not just "calendars", or "stools"—and please give prices and photographs where possible.

ORDER FORM

To: THE EDITOR,
"SPASTICS NEWS",
12 PARK CRESCENT,
LONDON, W.1.

Please send me SPASTICS NEWS until further notice at the annual subscription rate of 8s., including postage. (Published monthly).

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To commence with the.....Issue.

PONY RIDING FOR SPASTICS

MISS D. ALLEN, director of the Percy Lodge Riding School, 15 Christchurch Road, East Sheen, has offered to give riding lessons to spastics.

She proposes to give three mornings a week, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and could take up to ten children each session. Any fees involved will be nominal and based on a collective charge to the Group. There may also be facilities to take the children by car to the stables.

Miss Allen has experience of teaching spastics to ride. Any Groups interested should get in touch with Miss Allen direct, as soon as possible.

FOR SALE—NEW

EVEREST & JENNINGS Folding Wheelchair as advertised by Zimmer Orthopaedic. Used twice only. Mrs. Matania, 104 Priory Road, West Hampstead, London, N.W.6. Tel.: MAI 6314.



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